

REVIEW

The Moths of America North of Mexico. Fascicle 21. Sphingoidea.
Ronald W. Hodges. 1971. 158 pages, 14 color plates, notes,
etc. V-XII.

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\$24.00 (Subscription price: \$19.60).

This is the first fascicle of a work intended to cover all the moths of the northern part of North America, including Greenland. The format is well set out, 6½ x 9 inches, and extremely well done. The 14 color plates are well printed from color photos by lithography in four colors. The entire work, from the paper used, to printing and color rendition, is expected to be of superb quality.

The handling of the species in the first fascicle is that of the standard taxonomic arrangement: Synonymy, description, general comments and known geographical distribution.

From a biological and personal standpoint, the reviewer would like to see changes made in future issues along these lines: (1) The biological relationship of the "species" to one another discussed, or analyzed, (2) Maps of the complete distributional ranges indicated (3) The genetic relationships of the taxonomic units to one another indicated (That is, complete or only partial genetic isolation), (4) The ecological niche occupied by each taxonomic category. In addition, despite the sharp detailed rendition of the moths on the plates, the great attempt to eliminate shadows has seriously created a very "flat" appearance. In the reviewers' experience, the scales on the Lepidoptera wing must reflect light to give a natural impression and this cannot be done by lighting the subject from all directions.

Despite these personal opinions of the reviewer, the work must be considered of immense importance of American literature—it replaces nothing and fills a tremendous gap. It will not be replaced for years, if generations, to come. All libraries and individuals interested in Lepidoptera must have it for reference and daily use.

W. Hovanitz